



At Home or In a Building

Stay inside. When using alternative heat from a fireplace, wood stove, space heater etc. use fire safeguards and properly ventilate.

No heat - close off unneeded rooms, cover windows at night, stuff towels or rags in window cracks and under doors.

Eat and Drink - food provides the body with energy for producing its own heat. Keep the body replenished with fluids to prevent dehydration.

Wear several layers of loose fitting, lightweight, warm clothing. Remove layers to avoid overheating, perspiration and subsequent chill.

Are You Prepared?

At Home:

- Flashlights and extra batteries.
- Battery powered NOAA Weather Radio and a portable battery powered radio.
- Extra food and water. High energy food such as dried fruit or candy, and food that requires no cooking or refrigeration is best.
- Extra medicine, first aid supplies and baby items.
- Additional heating fuel if you use propane.
- Emergency heating sources, such as a fireplace, wood stove, space heater. Make sure you have proper ventilation and you know how to prevent an accidental fire in your home.
- Fire extinguisher and smoke detector (test them to make sure they function).

In Your Vehicle:

- Fully check and winterize your vehicle(s) before the winter season begins.
- Carry a Car Survival Kit - with extra blankets, flashlight with fresh batteries, first aid kit, knife, non-perishable food, water, extra clothing, matches in a waterproof container, tissues and paper towels, tool kit, tow rope, booster cables, road maps.
- Keep your gas tank full.
- Do not travel alone.
- Let someone know your time table and travel routes.

On A Farm:

- Move animals to sheltered areas. Properly laid out and oriented shelter belts protect cattle better than confining shelters such as sheds.
- Haul extra feed to nearby feeding areas.
- Have a water supply available - most animal winter storm deaths are from dehydration.



**State Emergency Management
Agency
P. O. Box 116
Jefferson City, MO 65102-0116**



In the Midwest, winter storms tend to develop over southeast Colorado in the lee of the Rockies. These storms move east or northeast and use both the southward plunge of cold air from Canada and the northward flow of moisture from the Gulf of Mexico to produce heavy snow and sometimes blizzard conditions. Other storms affecting the Midwest and Plains intensify in the lee of the Canadian Rockies and move southeast. Arctic air is drawn from the north and moves south across the Plains and Great Lakes. Wind and cold sometimes combine to cause wind chill temperatures well below zero.



What Makes A Winter Storm?

Cold Air: below freezing temperatures in the clouds and near the ground are necessary to make snow and/or ice.

Moisture: to form clouds and precipitation. Air blowing across a body of water, such as a large lake, is an excellent source of moisture.

Lift: something to raise the moist air to form the clouds and cause precipitation. An example of lift is warm air colliding with cold air and being forced to rise over the cold dome. The boundary between the warm and cold air masses is called a front.

Winter Precipitation Terms

Snow Flurries - Light snow falling for short durations. No accumulation or light dusting is all that is expected.

Snow Showers - Snow falling at varying intensities for brief periods of time. Some accumulation is possible.

Blowing Snow - Wind-driven snow that reduces visibility and causes significant drifting. Blowing snow may be snow that is falling and/or loose snow on the ground picked up by the wind.

Sleet - Rain drops that freeze into ice pellets before reaching the ground. Sleet usually bounces when hitting a surface and does not stick to objects. However, it can accumulate like snow and cause a hazard to motorists.

Freezing Rain - Rain that falls onto a surface with a temperature below freezing. This causes it to freeze to surfaces, such as trees, cars, and roads, forming a coating or glaze of ice. Even small accumulations of ice can cause a significant hazard.

Winter Warning Terms

Winter Storm Watch: Severe winter conditions, such as heavy snow and/or ice, are possible within the next day or two. Prepare now!

Winter Storm Warning: Severe winter conditions have begun or are about to begin in your area. Stay indoors!

Blizzard Warning: Snow and strong winds will combine to produce a blinding snow (near zero visibility), deep drifts and life-threatening wind chill. Seek shelter immediately!

Winter Weather Advisory: Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. If caution is exercised, these situations should not become life-threatening. The greatest hazard is often to motorists.

Frost/Freeze Warnings: Below freezing temperatures are expected and may cause significant damage to plants, crops or fruit trees.



Winter Storms - The Deceptive Killers

Winter storms are considered deceptive killers. Consider the following facts. People die in traffic accidents on icy roads. People die of heart attacks while shoveling snow. People die of hypothermia from prolonged exposure to cold.

Winter deaths - everyone is potentially at risk during winter storms. The actual threat to you depends on your specific situation.

Related to ice and snow: 70% occur in automobiles, 25% are people caught out in a storm, the majority of deaths are males over 40 years.

Related to exposure to cold: 50% are people over 60 years, over 75% are males, about 20% occur in the home.

When Caught in a Winter Storm...

Outside

Find shelter - try to stay dry and cover all exposed parts of the body.

No shelter - Prepare a lean-to, wind-break or snow cave for protection from the wind, build a fire for heat and to attract attention, place rocks around the fire to absorb and reflect heat.

Do not eat snow - it will lower your body temperature. Melt it first.

In a Car or Truck

Stay in the vehicle. Disorientation occurs quickly in wind-driven snow and cold.

Run the motor about 10 minutes each hour for heat. Open the window a little for fresh air to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. Make sure the exhaust pipe is not blocked.

Make yourself visible to rescuers. Turn on the dome light at night when running the engine. Tie a colored cloth (red or orange) to your antenna or door. Raise the hood indicating trouble after snow stops falling.

Exercise from time to time by vigorously moving arms, legs, fingers and toes to keep blood circulating and to keep warm.

